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## Negro Tales

### Racy Humor in New Stories by E. K. Means

FURTHER E. K. MEANS. Published by G. P. Putnam's Sons.

E. K. MEANS has won a distinctive if small niche in the edifice of our national literature. No one has so skillfully exploited the humorous aspects of the life of the Louisiana negro. He knows the life of the people whom he describes; he is a good natural story teller, and he is a master of negro dialect. With this equipment he has written three volumes of unusually entertaining short stories.

Broad, uproarious humor is a characteristic of almost all the tales included in the present collection. The author likes to plunge his characters into scrapes which are made doubly funny by a clever use of dialect and then to extricate them by some literary sleight-of-hand device. The tragedy that often enters the life of the Southern negro is never touched on.

The negroes of E. K. Means are lovable, simple-minded beings, occasionally falling into difficulties from which they are often rescued by the wisdom of the two local sages: Skeeter Butts, proprietor of the Hen-Scratch Saloon, and Vinegar Atts, pastor of the Shoofly Church. There are many comical situations: Pap Curtain and Mustard Prophet contending for the presidency of the local uplift society; eight negroes unwillingly confined on the roof of a white man's house, the intrigues for the hand of Sister Sally Skaggs, a lady possessed of abnormal girth and $500 in the bank. E. K. Means has by no means exhausted his peculiar vein of humor; and it is to be hoped that he will give us many more rollicking stories of the black folk whom he describes so well.

THE 1921 LOUISVILLE COLORED DIRECTORY.

There has been compiled, and is being printed a Colored Business, Professional, Religious, Educational and Social Directory, or a handbook of the Activities in General of the Colored People of Louisville. The compiler, Mr. J. R. Conkling Grant, General Manager of the Presto Wonder Hair College, sincerely hopes that it will be the key to the door of success for all the business and professional people of the city. As is generally known, there are enough Colored people here to afford every business and professional person of the Race an abundance of work. There are enough meritorious professional men here to attend to every angle of the general welfare of our people. Are they being accorded the recognition they rightfully deserve? If we do not patronize them who will? Get better acquainted with them in THE 1921 LOUISVILLE COLORED DIRECTORY, which is biographical and statistical

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[illegible] at the following places: Louisville News, Bright & Matthews, Ninth and Chestnut Streets, and the Presto-Wonder Hair College, on West Chestnut Street.

## BANKS and BANKING.

Negro Outlook By Jan. 1921

Rev. T. O. Fuller, A. M., Ph. D.,
Principal of Howe Institute,
With Introduction
By B. M. Roddy,
Cashier of Solvent Savings Bank and Trust Company

This is a very neat litle booklet of forty odd pages.

Its value lies in the scope it covers. As its title indicates it treats of Banks and Banking. Very seldom has it been our pleasure to find so great an amount of valuable information encompassed in such small space. Among the subjects treated, are:—Ancient Methods of Banking, Age of Banks, Economic Value, How Banks are Organized, Accounts, Depositories, Notes, Endorsements, Protests, Checks, Drafts, The Clearing House, etc. A chapter on "The Value of Business Education," is added by Geo. W. Henderson, President of Henderson Business College.

A list of questions follow each chapter. The book is admirably arranged for use in schools. The price is 50 cents. Published by Rev. T. O. Fuller, 492 St. Paul Ave., Memphis, Tenn.

NEWARK N J LEDGER
MARCH 11, 1921

## ESSEX NEGROES TO HAVE "WHO'S WHO"

The importance of the negro population in the county is reflected in the decision of the New Jersey Biographical Society to publish a "Who's Who Among Essex County Colored Citizens." At a recent meeting of the election board of the society several hundred names were passed upon and sixty selected for the volume.

Letters apprising those elected of their selection for record in Who's Who will be sent out in a few days. More names will be acted upon at future meetings of the election board. The society expects to issue the volume in three months.

MEMPHIS TENN APPEAL
MARCH 20, 1921

## DISTRIBUTE PAMPHLETS.

**Negroes to Learn of Work Being Done by Dr. Griggs.**

Negro leaders in the city who have made a study of the philosophy of Dr. Sutton E. Griggs and think that it will result in the advancement of the negro race have arranged to have the colored people become acquainted with his full teachings for themselves. Tomorrow pamphlets setting forth his views will be presented to the pupils of Howe and Le Moyne Institutes and Kortrecht High School.

Prof. Wharton S. Jones, superintendent of the city schools; Dr. T. O. Fuller, principal of Howe Institute, and Prof. E. Clippinger, principal of Le Moyne Institute, are in accord with the plan to have the negro people understand Dr. Griggs' policies in full. Others who desire to know the things for which Dr. Griggs stands as stated by himself will be given copies of the pamphlets at the Howe and Le Moyne Institute branches of the Cossitt Library. Subjects treated in the several pamphlets are: "The Negro and the South," "How to Attack the Lynching Evil," "Seeking Justice for the Negro" and "The American Negro and Changed Conditions."

Dr. Griggs has written more extensively on the race question than any other negro in the world. Many institutions of learning, white and colored, accept him as an authority on the subject.

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A LITTLE-KNOWN MARVEL OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE
Christophe's Citadel, a Monument to the Tyranny and Genius of Haiti's King of Slaves.
By Major G. H. Osterhout, Jr., U. S. M. C.

National Geographic Magazine, December 1920.

HAITI, THE HOME OF TWIN REPUBLICS.

By Sir Harry Johnston.

National Geographic Magazine, December 1920.

HAITI AND ITS REGENERATION BY THE UNITED STATES.

National Geographic Magazine, December 1920.

## INTER-RACIAL CONDITIONS IN CHICAGO

3/24/21
Southwestern Christian Advocate

The sixteen page report on Inter-racial Conditions in Chicago just published by the Home Missions Council furnishes a wealth of material for serious consideration. Made under the survey division of the industrial relations department of the Inter-church World Movement of North America by Howard R. Gold and Byron K. Armstrong, the report indicates the great value of some of the work done under these auspices.

The inter-racial conditions in Chicago are a sample of similar conditions in many other northern cities, with some variations due to size of the white and Negro populations, the character of the principal industries, etc. The groundwork of the problems is the same. That the tendency to violence indicated in this report is present elsewhere recent outbreaks in other places show. The problems of Negroes in other cities to get houses and neighborhoods in which to live is not altogether unlike what is here set forth briefly for Chicago. The questions of police protection for security of homes and persons, of cost of living in relation to income and of differences in wages of white and black are not confined to the Windy City. The matter of comparative labor turnover, of comparative skill and other items of efficiency are of consequence to workers and employers in every place in the North where Negroes have entered into industry. In short, the items which are sketched here for Chicago are of serious concern for communities all over the North.

A number of practical recommendations are given at the conclusion of the description of conditions.

The report contains an introduction by George E. Haynes. Copies may be had by writing to the Home Missions Council, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

## AT LAST

Thousands of thinking Negroes throughout the nation are recording lasting gratitude to the Rev. Chas. M. Melden, Ph. D., President of New Orleans College, for his timely book, *"From Slave to Citizen"** in which he more than wins his case in defense of the Negro as a human being and an American citizen.

Many men from many sections have written many things that have been helpful in this direction, but criticism of these has not infrequently been lodged against them on the ground that what they said were the deliverances of dreamers who were removed from the actual problem and were not, therefore speaking out of a fund of fact gained by sustained observation and contact with the concrete problem on which they essayed illumination.

Such an objection collapses completely in this case. By birth, scholarship, temperament, tradition, observation and experience Dr. Melden is qualified as but few men are to write on this subject. Though a New Englander by birth and training, he has devoted the last sixteen years of his life to the cause of Negro education in the central and far South—six years in Atlanta and ten in New Orleans. He is acquainted with the Negro's weaknesses and his virtues; he knows the Southern viewpoint, its merits and its fallacies. To both points of view he assumes an equitable and unpartisan attitude. On the one hand, he "sets forth clearly the Negro's claim for recognition as a man, a child of God, a member of the human family, with the implied rights and privileges;" on the other hand, he recognizes that "a large and increasing number of people in the South keenly feel the situation and are consecrating themselves to the task of bringing in a better day."

Chapters I, Citizenship; V, Disfranchisement; VI, Mob Law; VIII, The Christian Teacher; X, A Silent Protest, and XIX, A Modus Vivendi, are compelling. The author's conclusions are fairly expressed in the following

"Between the Negro and the Caucausian as separate and distinct members of the human family, a modus vivendi should be established which will not compromise the dignity and self-respect of either. It is not impossible, in spite of confident assertions to the contrary, for the brother in black and the brother in white to dwell together in unity. The assumption of superiority and inferiority is unwarranted and should be abandoned for the higher Christian view of a common origin, a common responsibility and a common destiny. The races should meet as equals and as such accord each other due respect. The Negro, as securely as the white man, should be protected in his rights as an American citizen, should be assured of his personal safety and his civil rights.

"The forces drawing the Negro onward and upward will continue to operate. He will come to his own, and at last be established in his rights as a citizen of the United States, as a man, and as a child of God."

We regard this book as a vital contribution to the problem. It comes at a time when the despoilers and decriers of the race are waxing bold to entrench their noxious theories in the new reconstruction program now being worked out by the new builders of the new nation. Its critcial judgments and its fine spirit will be appreciated by those desiring light and leading on the pressing problem of inter-racial adjustment within the nation.

**From Slave to Citizen*, by Charles M. Melden, Ph. D., $1.75; *Methodist Book Concern*, New Orleans. New York, Chicago.